proposal to the Central Government to check illegal infiltration along the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when was the proposal received by the Centre;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter; and

(e) what other steps are contemplated to restrict the illegal immigration of the Bangladeshis into Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (e) The Government has received proposals from the Government of Assam to check illegal infiltration from Indo-Bangladesh border from time to time. The proposals include *inter-alia* reduction of gaps between border outposts of Border Security Force (BSF), reverine patrolling, border fencing and preparation of National Register of Citizens, etc.

The Government has taken action to check illegal infiltration along the Indo-Bangladesh border, which include strengthening of BSF by equipping them with modern and sophisticated equipment/gadgets; raising of additional battalions of BSF; reduction of gaps between border outposts; intensification of patrolling; accelerated programme of construction of border roads and border fencing; provision of surveillance equipment, etc. The State Governments and Union Territories have also been directed to enforce the provisions of Foreigners Act (IMDT Act in case of Assam) strictly.

Security arrangements at railway stations

2830. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to take over the security arrangements at local railway stations in Mumbai like it has at the airports due to terrorist threat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Mulund bomb blast in Mumbai

2831. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many were killed and injured in Mulund bomb blast in Mumbai on 13th March, 2003;

(b) whether Government have found any terrorist outfit responsible for that; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) 11 commuters were killed and 82 were injured in Mulund bomb blast in Mumbai.

(b) The Government has found linkages of Lashkar-e-Toiba, a terrorist organization based in Pakistan, with the prepetrators responsible for the Mulund bomb blast.

(c) On 29.3.2003, 3 terrorists of Lashkar-e-Toiba connected with the Mulund bomb blast were killed by the Mumbai Police in exchange of fire at Jogeshwari.

Criticism for invoking POTA

2832. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that number of criticism has been made about the appropriateness of invoking POTA in a number of cases particularly pertaining to Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand etc.;

(b) if so, the nature and substance of these criticism and other details arising thereof;

(c) the Government's assessment about the genuineness of these criticisms; and